Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /014 W ----- 011347

R 200754Z

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2216

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 5297

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SCUL, EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO OPERA HOUSE

- 1. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS GAVE LUNCHEON FOR CODELS JAVITS/HASKELL, APRIL 17, WITH MININFO AND CULTURE GAMEL OTEIFI AS HOST. IN COURSE OF LUNCHEON, SENATOR JAVITS ASKED OTEIFI ABOUT GOE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. OTEIFI DEPLORED LACK OF GOE FUNDS FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, BUT OUTLINED WHAT GOE IS DOING.
- 2. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE MENTIONED GOE'S DESIRE TO REBUILD CAIRO OPERA HOUSE. HE HAD JUST BEGUN TO ASK FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM EGYPTIANS ABROAD FOR THIS PURPOSE. THUS FAR RESPONSES HAD BEEN GRATIFYING. EXPATRIATE EGYPTIANS ARE SENDING CONTRIBUTIONS, SOMETIMES AS HIGH AS \$1 OR 2 THOUSAND, SOMETIMES LESS. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO REBUILD THE CAIRO OPERA HOUSE, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 5, 6 OR 7 YEARS. HE WAS ENCOURAGED NEVERTHELESS THAT THIS SOURCE OF FUNDS IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY TAPPED.
- 3. OTEIFI SAID NOTHING ABOUT ANY USG COMMITMENT TO HELP REBUILD THE CAIRO OPERA HOUSE. NOR DID WE SUGGEST ANY USG SPECIAL INTEREST THEREIN. OTEIFI MAY SIMPLY HAVE FORGOTTEN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NIXON-SADAT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 74 OR HE MAY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCLUDED THAT USG FINANCIAL HELP IS NOT IN THE
CARDS AND THEREFORE MADE NO MENTION OF IT. WE
TRUST IT IS THE LATTER.
EILTS

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NNN

^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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